DC

ALL IN

13+ TEEN 18

LEGACY 818

THE FLASH™

BURIED TREASURE

SPURRIER
GEORGIEV
HERMS

ALL IN

ABSOLUTE FLASH

Written by **JEFF LEMIRE** • Art and cover by **NICK ROBLES**

The **Absolute Universe** races forward starting in **MARCH**

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ISSUE EIGHTEEN:
"AS THE UNIVERSE"

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Oh.

Oh, poor young master. Smells sad! Smells scared!

Oh dear. Oh dear.

What is the goodest thing?

Oh! I know! The slobber of comfort! Make his snout do the happy shape! That is the goodest thing!

H-ha. THANKS, FOXY. YOU'RE A **GOOD** DOG.

I AM? Oh! I am!

Okay. ONE THING AT A TIME. THERE'S SOME SORT OF... HIDDEN **AIR?** Like... HALF A DEGREE OUT OF WHACK WITH **REALITY.**

WHATEVER SENT US HERE, IT'S ATTUNED US **TO** IT.

Magic moon air! Yes. YES!

Smells of very-oldness!

AND THERE'S... huh. SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE. A **SHADOW** IN **TIME...**

Sniff the yesterdays-- brilliant!

Clever young master! I can help!

IF I JUST... TWIST THE ECHOES...

...THEN MAYBE WE CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENED HERE...

£$%€.

Stick!

That one has a stick!

JIM CORRIGAN. HOST OF THE SPECTRE.

THE LIVING WRATH OF CREATION.

HELLUVAN EGO BOOST, huh? THE MIGHTIEST POWERS IN THE COSMOS, *BEGGING* ME TO *HIDE HIM.* TO *HOLD* HIM.*

BENEATH A *SHINLESS CRATER,* AT THE COLD EDGE OF LIGHT AND DARK, *THERE--* THEY KNEW-- THERE, I ALONE COULD *GUARD* HIM.

DIDN'T NEED TO *ASK* WHO WAS AFTER HIM. ONLY *ONE* OLD SHADOW DARK ENOUGH TO GET THE LIKES OF *THEM* ALL RILED.

*As seen in DC ALL IN SPECIAL #1!
--'Continuity' Chris Rosa

HERE TO CONTINUE OUR GAME, OLD FRIEND?

"IMPERATOR OF *APOKOLIPS,* GOD OF *ANTI-LIFE...*

"...HE WAS MY *MAKER,* IN A SENSE. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Eh, IT'S TOUGH TO ASSIGN *HIERARCHIES* AT OUR LEVEL. ONE MEASURES A CIRCLE STARTING ANYWHERE, YA KNOW?

WE ARE THE STUFF OF BEING ITSELF-- CYCLICAL IDEAS-- DEEPER THAN *MYTH* OR *MATTER...*

...but still. HIS *SPARK* WAS A PART OF MY DESIGN. I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY I DESPISED HIM.

IT ISN'T FAIR THAT THE CREATOR SHOULD HOLD PRIMACY OVER THE CREATION.

"Well. I *ALMOST* MANAGED IT. ALMOST DEFEATED DARKSEID HIMSELF.

"I WAS THE STRONGER. MY *HATRED*, SHARPER. IF HE HADN'T USED A *CHEAP TRICK* I WOULD HAVE HUMBLED HIM AT LAST...

"...buuuut--SO WHAT? I'VE BEEN DESTROYED BEFORE. DIFFERENCE IS, *THIS* TIME, SOMETHING *STRANGE* HAPPENED.

"THE *PARTS* OF ME WERE GATHERED UP. DRAWN INTO *AETHERIC MACHINES* THAT HAVE SLEPT DORMANT FOR MILLENNIA...

"MACHINES BUILT BY THE ATLANTEANS BEFORE THE FALL. MACHINES THAT EXIST IN MANY PLACES... OVERLAPPING... LOCKED IN SUPER-POSITION.

THESE MACHINES.

THE *SOLID* PART OF ME...? THE HEART OF *DARKNESS*... THAT WENT... SOMEPLACE *ELSE.*

BUT THE *IMPORTANT* PART? THE *IDEA* OF ME... THAT GOT SUCKED UP OFF THE MOON...

...AND SPAT OUT DOWN HERE.

"SO WHAT DID I DO? WHAT I *ALWAYS* DO. FOUND A VESSEL TO GRIP THE REINS OF POWER."

Wh-What's--?

"*PLOTTED.* GAINED STRENGTH. AND *SEETHED.*

"YOU CAN'T IMAGINE IT. HOW IT *GNAWS.* TO BE SO FAR ABOVE THIS PETTY REALITY... BUT FALLEN? BEATEN. *HUMILIATED.*

"I TRIED TO DIVERT MYSELF. I WAGED SLAUGHTER UPON THIS DUMB LITTLE WORLD. I HAD THE MAGES SLOW *TIME* IN THE SACRED CITY, THEN CLAIMED THEIR MAGICS FOR MYSELF.

"My hatred. My anger. MY *NEED* FOR *VENGEANCE* UPON DARKSEID. THEY CONSUMED ME.

"A COLD FLAME, UNFED, UNENTERTAINED, I PLOTTED DARKSEID'S DOWNFALL WITH *VILE* PATIENCE.

IT WAS THEN I HEARD THE SELFISH @%£*ǂ HAD *ALREADY DIED.*

"I BELIEVE I HAD SOMETHING OF A *BREAKDOWN* AT THAT POINT."

KRRM

I'm... I'M SO DAMN **ANGRY** AND I... ...I don't know **why**...

...E-everyone... s-stay back... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO **DO** WITH IT ALL...

Weird. THESE ***EMANATIONS...*** THEY'RE RESONATING IN THE SAME PLANES AS THE ***SPEED FORCE.***

IT'S TURNED HIM INTO A...

...LIGHTNING ROD...

THESE ***UNHOLY MAGICS*** WON'T VEX THE REST OF US WHILE ***HE'S*** HERE. THEY'RE DRAWN TO HIS SOUL LIKE MOTHS TO FLAME...

Canary? Hate to say it--I think we gotta put Wally down. Can you hit him with a ***scream*** before he bolts?

On it.

WAIT-- WON'T THAT ***HURT*** HIM?

LET ME TALK TO HIM, ***PLEASE!***

THERE'S NO NEED.

I CAN VENT HIS ***CHRONON LOAD*** INTO NULLSPACE. HE WON'T MIND.

NO, YOU CAN-- ***HEY!*** HEY, ***BACK OFF,*** BOTH OF Y--

IT'S NO PROBLEM, MY DEAR. I NEED MERELY PERFORM THE ***RITE OF STATUARY,*** AND--

uh-oh.

The young master misses the pack. Oh! Me too!

I cannot smell them!

Okay. Okay. Think think think.

Such sad stink.

Such lonely howling.

I'M... I'M TRYING TO JUMP US BACK TO **DAD,** PAL--

--BUT... SOMETHING'S WRONG.

I CAN'T FEEL HIM.

I GUESS... WITHOUT **YOU** THERE TO CHARGE HIM UP, THE MAGIC'S BLOCKING US. Damn.

I WONDER IF HE KNOWS HE'S GOT NO POWERS?

AND-- ah, nuts. I ALREADY JUMPED TO THE ONLY MINI-ME I LEFT BEHIND.

Not true! Young master hasn't realized yet he can play fetch into yesterdays!

Still young!

Still learning!

I CAN...huh. I CAN SENSE THE **OTHER** DAD. HE'S ON EARTH. I THINK IREY AND MOM ARE WITH HIM. MAYBE WE CAN GET TO **TH--**

YAAAAAAA!

YuuUUaaAHH--!

Oh no! Oh no! Poor master!

Such grumpy growling!

Nf. THE SIGNAL'S ALL MESSED UP. SOMETHING **GRABBED** US. HELD US HERE.

...Foxy... can you... CAN YOU **SEE** THAT THING?

Rrrrrrrr.

Smells of old! Smells of weird!

I THINK WE'RE **STUCK HERE,** PAL.

Yes! Together! Such good luck!

Wish we had a ball!

These miraculous machines. Ohhhh, HOW I *PUSHED* AT THEIR LIMITS.

I TRANSFORMED BEINGS INTO BEASTS. IDEAS TO ENERGIES. MATTER INTO MYTH. I VIOLATED PHYSICS LIKE A TANTRUMING CHILD WITH A CHAINSAW, VAINLY HOPING TO DIVERT MY FURY...

...AND THEN I SAW IT.

EMOTIONS CAN BE TRANSFIGURED, TOO.

Heh. CLEVER BOY.

I MEAN, IT'S HARDLY *NEW.* THINK OF ALL THOSE SANCTIMONIOUS *LANTERNS,* WITH THEIR TWINKLY RAINBOW *FEEEEEEELINGS.*

BUT... TO REMOVE EMOTIONS... *ECLIPSE* THEM... *TRANSLATE* THEM INTO BRITTLE MATTER...

...*THAT'S* A NEAT TRICK.

"Oh, THEY'RE *UNSTABLE,* OF COURSE. *THAT* FITS THE FABLE. UGLY VIBRATIONS LIKE THIS, YOU TRY TO TAMP 'EM DOWN-- THEY START TO LEAK...

"I FIGURED, EVEN *THAT* COULD BE WEAPONIZED. PERHAPS I COULD HARNESS THE HATRED OF THE UNIVERSE... MAKE WAR OUT OF SADNESS AND LOSS..."

PERHAPS HERE, IN THIS *WOMB* OF *MAGIC*, I COULD CONVERT IT TO STRENGTH... A STAIRWAY TO THE HIGHEST POWER...

...I FELT THE COLD GRIP OF *AMBITION.* Darkseid's absence. A throne of purest darkness, awaiting a new, dread king...

A-AND THEN?

Thhbbbbpt.

I THOUGHT-- *SCREW THAT!* WHAT'S THE QUICKEST ROUTE TO HAPPINESS?

"IT FEELS *GOOD*, DOESN'T IT? WHAT'S IT ALL *FOR*, FLASH-- IF NOT THIS? BATTLES, MORAL POSTURING, BLAH BLAH *BLAH.*

"AND *AMBITION?* C'MON. THERE'S *ALWAYS* ANOTHER HORIZON TO CHASE. WHEN YOU GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT, ISN'T *CONTENTMENT* THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS?"

I... I THINK THE IDEA IS FOR THE *MAXIMUM* NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO BE HAPPY, NOT JUST ONE OR TWO...

...BUT... I gotta admit...

IT'S HARD TO CARE WHEN YOU'RE ONE OF THEM. Heh. All of history is here.

"I CURED MYSELF OF THE HATE AND ANGER. DID THE SAME FOR A FEW ELITES-- NO SENSE BEING HAPPY BUT LONELY. AND THE *REST?*

"VYING FOR A SPOT IN THE *INNER COURT* KEEPS THEM MOTIVATED."

YOU... YOU SAID IT'S *UNSTABLE*... LEAKS...

Ha. STILL TRYING TO LEARN MY MASTER PLAN, WALLY? IT'S FINE. I HAVE NO SECRETS FROM YOU.

TRUST ME, YOU'RE NEVER GOING BACK TO HEROING, PAL. NOTHING COMPARES TO *BLISS.*

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S AN *IMPERFECT* FIX.

SEE-- *HATRED?* THAT'S AN EXOTIC THING. DIFFICULT TO DISPOSE OF WITHOUT *CONSEQUENCES.*

WE'RE STILL WORKING ON THAT.

BUT *ANGER...?* ANGER'S STUPID AND SIMPLE. BUT MOST OF ALL-- IT'S *ADAPTIVE.*

THE MACHINE DOESN'T *BEND.* DOESN'T *CHANGE.* IT'S *INFLEXIBLE.* SO-- YEAH. WE GOTTA RELEASE THE PRESSURE, FROM TIME TO TIME.

THE ANGER I TAKE OUT OF MY PALS IN THE COURT? I RELEASE IT BACK INTO THE WILD.

WORKS OUT WELL. SKARTARIS GETS SCARIER. MY WARRIORS GET MEANER. ALL OF THEM RAGING, IN THE HOPES OF CATCHING MY EYE.

BUT THERE'S *SO MUCH FURY* IN ME. MORE THAN THIS WORLD CAN BEAR.

SO WHAT DO I DO? I *VENT* IT. OUT THROUGH THE TERRESTRIAL NODE. THROUGH THE OLD ATLANTEAN NETWORK. THROUGH THE *SEVEN-POINTED STAR.*

THOUGH, uh... heh. WE *HAVE* FOUND SOME PEOPLE MORE *RECEPTIVE* THAN OTHERS.

Wh-who's...

Young master is sad but not cold. He has made a warm waft because his fur is not thick and luxurious.

He is very clever and very sad and I have not pooped in four hours.

YOU SAW THEM, RIGHT, FOXY? BACK THERE WITH THE-- THE OTHER DAD.

THE HEROES. CRAZY OUTFITS. ALL SO... BOLD. SO BRAVE. THEY'D KNOW WHAT TO DO RIGHT NOW.

SO DAMN CERTAIN OF EVERY-THING.

I've never been certain of anything.

I CAN'T BE LIKE THEM, FOXY. I... I WON'T BE LIKE THEM. MAKES ME ITCH TO EVEN BE AROUND THEM.

THE WORLD CAN'T BE THAT SIMPLE.

Hhhh. WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ME?

ALL THIS POWER. I CAN FEEL EVERYTHING. RESHAPE ANYTHING. BUT...

...I don't have a damn clue who I am.

Snnf...

...HEY.

ARE YOU SHIVERING?

It is frostycold, but young master, it is you that smells of sad. Not for you to comfort me.

Let me apply the tongue of contentment, and--

HEY. IT'S OKAY, LITTLE PAL. SAVE YOUR ENERGY, *huh?*

I GOT YA.

YOU'RE A GOOD BOY.

Oh. Oh, my pack. These not-furs. Such strange dogs. And yet at their lowest. At their darkest.

Still the love.

You are a good boy too, young master.

YOU OKAY?

I'M THINKING *VERY* UNKIND THOUGHTS.

Yeah. You're not the only one.

G-G-GET OUT OF MY WAY, LIN. I... I CAN'T *RESTRAIN* IT... I LOVE YOU, BUT... I'M...

...I'M SO FREAKIN' *ANGRY...*

Wally. WALLY, *LISTEN TO ME.* I *KNOW* YOU.

THAT OTHER ONE, DOWN IN SKARTARIS-- HE'S JUST A *COPY.* THIS IS *YOU.* THE ONE WHO NEVER TURNS HIS BACK ON WHAT'S RIGHT. THE ONE WHO KNOWS--

--THE WORLD NEEDS YOU.

THE *REAL* YOU. THE YOU I *LOVE.*

Whoa.

I KNOW, RIGHT? *HEAVY.*

DRAMA. UNREQUITED LOVE. PUNCHING PEOPLE AT LIGHT SPEED. I MEAN, *COME ON!* WHO NEEDS ALL THAT CRAZY SOAP OPERA, RIGHT?

I SAY THEY'RE *WELCOME* TO IT.

WALLY, I--

getoutofheregetout ofhereIcan'tstopitIam connectedtoeverythingIam outsidephysicsIamdeathinre allIneed--

--all I wwWwant is--

--TARGETS!

J-Justice League.

Vermillion protocol.

Hhhhh. OKAY. HERE'S WHAT I THINK.

I THINK *THIS MACHINE* DOES WHAT *I* DO. I THINK IT-- RESHAPES THINGS. IT LINKS PLACES, CHANGES SPACES, OPENS AND SHUTS DOORS.

PROBLEM IS, IT *WORKS.* WHEREAS *I*...

...*DON'T.*

Still young! Still learning! Still time to grow thick and luxurious fur!

But... I HAVE *THOUGHTS,* Y'KNOW? IDEAS. GOALS. AND...

...I HAVE A *FAMILY.*

Oooh! Pack! The pack!

THIS IS JUST A DUMB MACHINE THAT CAN'T CHANGE ITSELF.

ABOVE ALL?

I HAVE THE GOODEST BOY OF ALL.

Me? He--oh!

HE MEANS ME!

WUFF

SO... SEE THIS?

Ball!

Ballit'saBALLooooh Iwanttheball--

I'M GONNA THROW IT, OKAY? I'M GONNA THROW IT TO DAD-- ***WHEREVER HE IS.*** The Dad who wanted to *be* with us. The Dad who trusted us. ***READY?***

*allballballball

Hmmm.

SAY-- WHY DID YOU *REALLY* BRING ME HERE, ECLIPSO?

...

...HATRED.

LIKE I SAID, ANGER'S *EASY.* BUT THE HATE... ALL THE HATE DRAWN OUT OF *ME* EVERY DAY... IT'S GOT TO GO *SOMEWHERE,* BEFORE THAT THING POPS.

"THAT'S WHY I CALLED *MARDON* HERE. IN SKARTARIS, MYTH AND MAGIC ARE JUST... *WEATHER PATTERNS.*

"I GAVE HIM A TASTE OF BLISS. SET HIM TO WORK, CRAVING MORE...

"WITH *WEATHER WIZARD* AT MY SIDE, I FIGURED I COULD SIPHON OFF THE HATRED. LET IT DISSIPATE, LIKE A *FOG* AT DAWN...

"DIDN'T WORK. JUST POISONED THE WORLD, LIKE A *CANCER* IN EDEN. *TOTAL* BUZZKILL.

"BUT THEN I REMEMBERED SOMETHING *CORRIGAN* SAID... A VISION IN THE EYES OF THE *SPECTRE,* BEFORE DARKSEID CAME FOR HIM."

THERE'S... THERE'S A NEW *POWER* COMING... SOMETHING *ASTONISHING...*

...SOMETHING GREATER BY FAR THAN THE WRATH OF CREATION...

"WELL... I DID MY HOMEWORK. READ THE SIGNS. LISTENED TO THE VIBRATIONS..."

WHATEVER IT WAS-- THAT *COSMOS-SHAKING POWER*-- IT RESONATED IN AN ENERGY SIGNATURE I *RECOGNIZED.*

VOHRS, FLASH.

I CALLED YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU ARE THE MOST ADEPT CREATURE ALIVE-- WHETHER YOU *KNOW* IT OR NOT-- AT *CHANNELING EXOTIC ENERGIES.*

I HOPED YOU COULD HELP WITH MY LITTLE *STORAGE* PROBLEM.

HOPED?

MM. I BEGIN TO THINK I WAS WRONG. YOU HAVEN'T USED YOUR POWERS SINCE YOU GOT HERE. EVEN WHEN YOU ATTACKED ME TO LET YOUR BOY ESCAPE...

NO SPEED. NO ZAPPY LIGHT. JUST THAT LITTLE *TRICK KNIFE* YOU GOT OFF THE STILLNESS.

I'M STARTING TO THINK... WHATEVER NEW POWER SHAKES THE WORLD...

"...IT ISN'T *YOURS* AT ALL."

Huh. Okay. Fair enough. SO... CAN I GO CHILL IN THE PLEASURE ROOM INSTEAD?

Ah. AFRAID NOT. I WASN'T LYING ABOUT THE ***OTHER*** JOB. I PROMISED MY BETROTHED A FIGHT TO THE DEATH. I JUST, *uh...*

...HAD HIGHER HOPES FOR YOU.

Wuh?

Oh well.

No sense getting riled up.

TO BE CONTINUED...

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

ABSOLUTE FLASH

#1 PREVIEW

JEFF LEMIRE WRITER
NICK ROBLES ARTIST
ADRIANO LUCAS COLORS
TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS

WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT HAVE I DONE?

THIS IS ALL SO MESSED UP. I'VE--
--I'VE RUINED EVERYTHING. I CAN'T GO BACK. I HAVE TO--
--HAVE TO KEEP GOING--
--KEEP RUNNING. WHEN THEY FIND OUT--
--WHEN HE FINDS OUT HE'S LITERALLY GOING TO KILL ME.
BUT WHAT DOES IT MATTER NOW?
EVERYTHING IS MESSED UP.
EVERYTHING IS POINTLESS NOW...
...I--I MESSED UP SO BAD...

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

NO!

IT'S ALL GOING **TOO FAST.** JUST NEED TO BREATHE...

...BREATHE, WALLY, JUST LIKE SHE TAUGHT YOU...

...BREATHE...

...SLOW IT DOWN...

SLOW.

IT.

--DOWN?

I--

?!

TWO DAYS AGO

YOU **KNOW** WHERE YOU ARE.

YOU KNOW **WHO** YOU ARE.

YOU'RE WALLY WEST.

TO BE CONTINUED IN ABSOLUTE FLASH #1

ON SALE IN MARCH!

WHEN THE LIGHTS DIM, THE MAGIC BEGINS!

ZATANNA

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SUPERSTAR WRITER / ARTIST
JAMAL CAMPBELL
SETS THE STAGE FOR
ZATANNA'S SHOWSTOPPING
RETURN IN A NEW SIX ISSUE
LIMITED SERIES!

DC ALL IN

THE TOUR BEGINS
FEBRUARY

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

ZATANNA

ALL IN

INTERVIEW WITH JAMAL CAMPBELL

Get ready to step into the spotlight with *Zatanna*! Superstar writer/artist Jamal Campbell dives into his upcoming six-issue limited series, where magic, mystery, and mayhem take center stage—along with exciting new characters and surprises.

You've described Zatanna's new series as "wonder, mystery, mischief, and fishnets," which feels like a perfect blend for her character. How did you approach balancing these elements?

From its inception, my goal for this book has been to create a story that explores Zatanna Zatara in her totality. From the magic and mundane, the highs and lows, the wonder and horror, this will be an exploration of everything that I consider core to her character.

Longtime fans may recognize characters, concepts and callbacks from past runs brought forward and woven into her modern iteration. At the same time, being cognizant of not alienating new readers, I've made sure that everything you need to know to understand this book is explained or showcased throughout the story. I hope this book becomes a gateway for them to experience Zatanna in other books and runs.

The Lady White is an intriguing new adversary. What inspired her creation, and how does she challenge Zatanna in ways we haven't seen before?

The Lady White was born from a desire to bolster Zatanna's rogues gallery with some fresh blood. She mirrors Zatanna in that they are both of the entertainment industry and exhibit a penchant for flair and the dramatic.

However, it's also an ongoing mystery of why the Lady White is so hell-bent on going after Zatanna. The two have never met. They have no history or distant connection as far as Zatanna can tell. Despite this, the Lady White is laser focused on causing Zatanna grief and suffering. Zatanna will need to break through her inability to grasp the truth behind this contradiction as well as the identity of the cursed sword that the Lady White has brought upon her.

Zatanna has deep ties to so many iconic characters across DC. Can fans expect any exciting connections to the larger DC Universe?

Given Zatanna's notable relationship with a number of DC's most distinct characters, such as Batman, Wonder Woman, and Constantine to name a few, I'd be remiss not to acknowledge those connections. These relationships and how Zatanna feels about them is one of the direct drivers of her actions and decisions throughout the book.

At the same time, this is Zatanna's book and I did not want any of those iconic characters to overshadow her time in the spotlight. Instead, I've taken the opportunity to foreground a few of her lesser acknowledged relationships. Blue Devil, specifically, takes a prominent role and is an important piece of the story.

DON'T MISS *ZATANNA*, ON SALE MONTHLY!

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